

## GUIDE TO THE OF9 FLORES FILE

[ This subfile contains information on the various peoples on the island of Flores, at the eastern end of the Indonesian archipelago. The file essentially contains only one source with bits of information from a few others. Flores is a mountainous, volcanic island, whose topography has tended to isolate its various populations, producing a number of divergent cultural types. There are five major ethnolinguistic groups. From west to east, they are the Manggarai, Ngada, Endeh, Sika and Larantuka. They all speak languages of the Ambon-Timor group of Malayo-Polynesian, but not all are mutually intelligible to the others. The physical type is of various mixtures of Malayo and Melanesian features with varying amounts of Papuan. The population of Flores was about 460,000 in 1930. The population of Manggarai alone has increased by almost two thirds since 1930, so these figures may presently be far off. Swidden agriculture occupies most of the people, with maize as the principal crop. Rice, millet, vegetables, and yams are also raised in most areas. Buffalo, horses, pigs, and dogs are also raised, although the first two serve mainly as status symbols and objects for brideprice, while the second two may be eaten on ritual occasions, along with chickens in some areas. Christianity, introduced early in the sixteenth century, is fairly common, ranging from at least 50% in most areas, to 100% in some. Islam is found to some extent, though it is not widespread. The indigenous religion, involving a supreme deity in some areas, and a large pantheon, is also not uncommon, especially in isolated regions. Most areas seem to have at least three recognized social classes consisting of nobility, commoners, and former slaves. The west and central regions have a greater emphasis on stratified social classes and a territorial hierarchy. Settlements range from mountain peaks to the coast. Most seem to have at one time consisted of only

a single clan house but now contain many smaller houses. Village populations average at a few hundred but range from a few single family houses to over 1000 individuals. The most common form of kin group is named patrilineal unit, though in some areas, ambilineal groups are found. Since in most areas, marriages require a sizeable brideprice, the bride and groom and the woman's children will often remain with her natal kin group until the full amount is paid. Households for this reason often consist of parents, married daughters and their offspring. Outside contact, through foreign traders, probably came as early as the beginning of this millenium. When the Portuguese arrived in the early sixteenth century, there were already a number of Muslim settlements on the eastern end of Flores. The Dutch consolidated their control over the region during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The island is now a part of the Republic of Indonesia. (Data based on LeBar, 1972, Ethnic Groups of Insular Southeast Asia, Vol I. pp. 80-94.)

The 116 slips for the sources found in this file are located in the OB1 Indonesia file. 5: Kennedy is essentially the only source. It is an edited version of his fieldnotes. The file contains only a basic descriptive ethnographic report of the unit. The file was processed in 1956.]